

REMARKS

The Office Action has imposed a restriction requirement, concluding, without any rationale, that the claims contain patentably distinct species. More specifically, the Office Action alleges that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: a first washer selected from the group consisting of aqueous ammonia, a catholyte, and hydrogen containing water and a second washer containing a decontaminating agent selected from the group consisting of polycarboxylic acids, ammonium salts of polycarboxylic acids and polyamino carboxylic acids.

Pursuant to the restriction requirement, the Office Action has requested that applicants elect a species for the first washer and a species for the second washer.

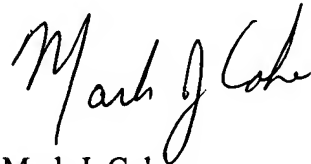
In order to comply with the restriction requirement, applicants elect, without traverse, aqueous ammonia as the species for the first washer and polycarboxylic acid each capable of producing a chelate compound together with copper, and ammonium salts of said polycarboxylic acids for the second washer.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter.

Moreover, in accordance with the request in the Office Action, applicants respectfully submit that Claims 25, 27, 28, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 48, 49, 50 and 51 read on the elected invention.

Wherefore, the present case is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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